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**JOINT DISTRICTS**  
of the  
**BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH**  
the  
**URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS**  
and the  
**RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPPEY**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

for the year

**1950**



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**COLONEL W. H. CRICHTON, C.I.E.**

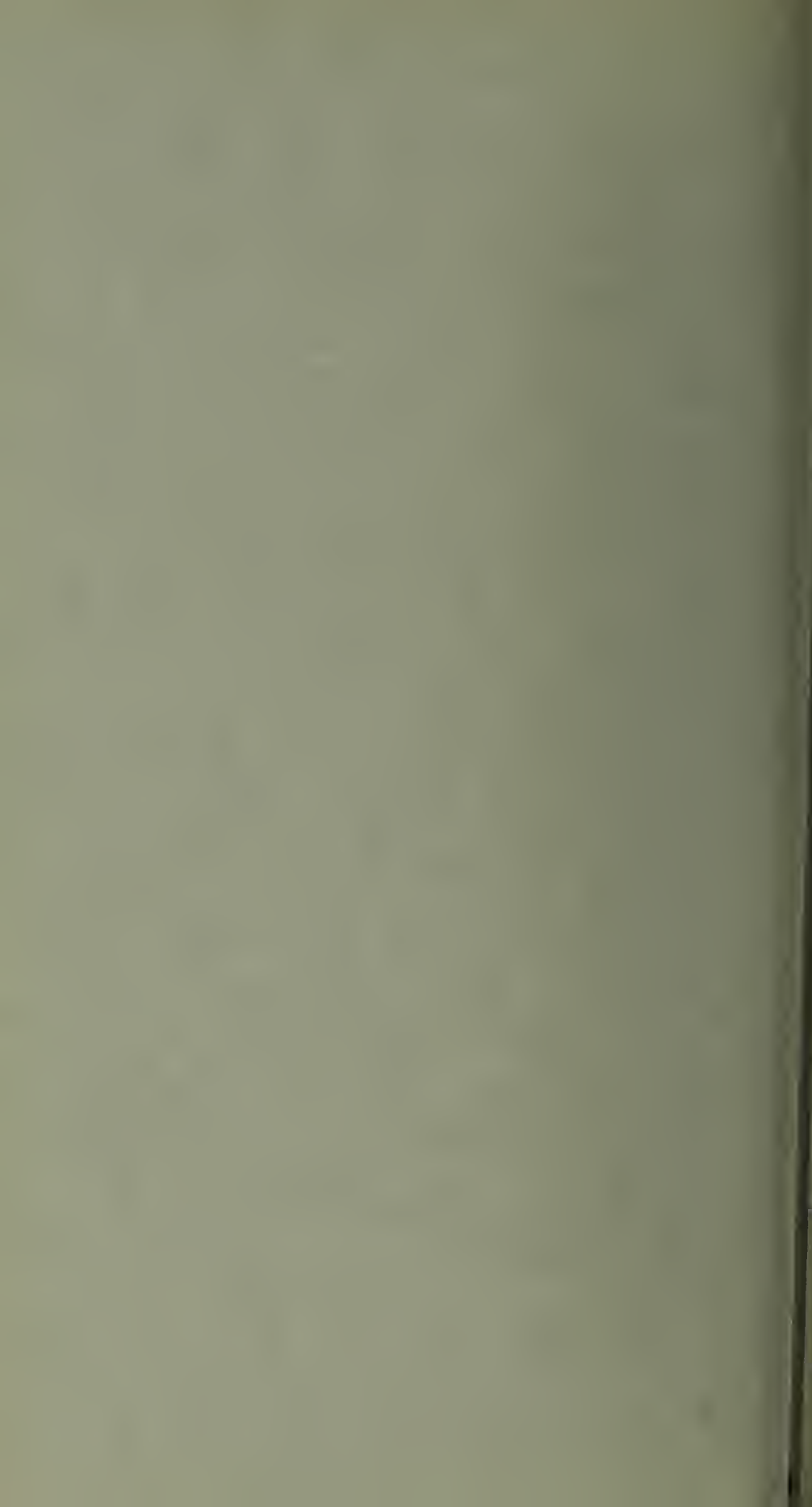
**M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., I.M.S. (ret.).**

(Granted leave of absence from September, 1950)

**FRANK HAUXWELL**

**M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

(Temporary from 1st January, 1951)



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# ISLE OF SHEPPEY

(Medical Officer of Health)

## JOINT COMMITTEE

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1950

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*Chairman :*

H. C. Love

*Members :*

**Queenborough Town Council :**

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.

Miss D. L. Wood

**Sheerness Urban District Council :**

W. C. Butterworth

A. G. Coats, J.P.

R. J. Davie

Mrs. E. M. Lifton

H. L. Wise

**Sheppey Rural District Council :**

T. H. Dale

H. C. Love

*Clerk to the Committee :*

J. Griffiths, Solicitor

*Medical Officer of Health :*

Colonel W. H. Crichton, C.I.E., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., I.M.S. (RET.).  
(Granted leave of absence from September, 1950)

Frank Hauxwell, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.  
(Temporary from 1st January, 1951)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
TRINITY ROAD,  
SHEERNESS.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Sheppey  
Joint (Medical Officer of Health) Committee*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit herewith reports on the health of the three constituent authorities of the Island of Sheppey for the year 1950.

As Colonel Crichton, your permanent Medical Officer of Health, was released for service in Korea in September and I took up duty as Acting Medical Officer in January of the current year, it is greatly to the credit of the various Sanitary staffs that the continuity of the work was so well and ably maintained. Acknowledgment must also be made to Dr. McNamara, of Sheerness, who so readily assisted when any medical problems arose.

Generally speaking the health of the Island remained good. The Death Rate over the whole Island was the same as in the previous year and though there was a small increase in Infant Mortality from 18.3 per 1,000 births in 1949 to 21.8 in 1950, this would not appear to be any special significance in this and such variations in rates are always liable to occur when the total number of incidents is comparatively small.

Vital Statistics for the past five years for the three authorities and the Island as a whole are contained in the following table

TABLE I

	Year	Estimated Population	Live Births			Deaths		Infant Deaths under 1 year		
			Total	Illegitimate and Rate per cent.	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Illegitimate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births
Queenborough	1946	2,901	74	5 or 6.8%	25.5	31	10.7	2	0	27.0
	1947	2,921	72	1 or 1.4%	24.6	33	11.3	4	0	55.5
	1948	3,018	75	5 or 6.7%	24.8	35	11.6	5	0	66.7
	1949	3,027	57	5 or 8.8%	18.8	24	7.9	2	1	35.1
	1950	3,070*	39	2 or 5.1%	12.7	31	10.1	1	0	25.6
Sheerness	1946	14,070	302	20 or 6.6%	21.4	183	13.0	17	0	56.3
	1947	14,320	357	22 or 6.1%	24.9	198	13.8	10	1	28.0
	1948	14,680	311	19 or 6.3%	21.2	190	12.9	5	1	16.1
	1949	14,840	264	15 or 5.7%	17.8	185	12.4	3	0	11.3
	1950	16,180*	260	18 or 6.9%	16.0	199	12.3	5	0	19.2
Sheppey Rural	1946	8,236	184	11 or 6.0%	22.3	96	11.6	7	0	38.0
	1947	8,504	224	15 or 6.7%	26.3	112	13.2	10	0	44.6
	1948	8,883	187	13 or 6.9%	21.1	80	9.0	4	0	21.4
	1949	8,860	171	16 or 9.3%	19.3	105	11.8	4	0	23.4
	1950	8,837*	159	7 or 4.4%	17.9	99	11.2	4	0	25.1
Isle of Sheppey	1946	25,207	560	36 or 6.4%	22.2	310	12.3	26	0	46.4
	1947	25,745	653	38 or 5.8%	25.3	343	13.3	24	1	36.7
	1948	26,581	573	37 or 6.5%	21.5	305	11.4	14	1	24.4
	1949	26,727	492	36 or 7.3%	18.4	314	11.7	9	1	18.3
	1950	28,087*	458	27 or 5.8%	16.3	329	11.7	10	0	21.8

\* Includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area.

The incidence of infectious disease on the Island during the past five years is shown in Table II. It will be noted that Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough were more prevalent in 1950, but that no cases of Diphtheria have occurred during the past two years.

**TABLE II**  
**INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE**  
**1946 - 1950**

		Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Acute Poliomyelitis	Acute Polioencephalitis	Dysentery	Malaria	Meningococcal Infection
Queenborough M.B.	1946	6	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1947	5	10	-	55	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
	1948	11	7	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1949	5	1	-	142	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1950	20	60	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sheerness U.D.	1946	11	22	1	42	8	4	1	-	-	-	-
	1947	8	79	10	239	16	6	-	-	2	1	1
	1948	12	48	1	21	6	9	1	1	-	3	-
	1949	44	15	-	518	7	5	1	-	-	-	-
	1950	22	91	-	4	3	7	-	-	-	-	-
Sheppey R.D.	1946	4	6	1	16	25	6	1	-	-	-	-
	1947	7	80	1	192	22	2	1	-	-	-	-
	1948	2	51	1	54	5	4	-	-	1	1	-
	1949	6	35	-	239	18	10	-	-	-	-	-
	1950	27	87	-	13	15	5	2	-	2	1	-
Isle of Sheppey	1946	21	28	2	62	34	10	2	-	-	-	-
	1947	20	169	11	486	38	10	2	-	2	1	1
	1948	25	106	2	84	11	13	1	1	1	4	-
	1949	55	51	-	899	27	16	1	-	-	-	-
	1950	69	238	-	20	18	12	2	-	2	1	-



Table III shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease occurring during the past twenty-five years in the whole of the Isle of Sheppey. The number of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurring in 1950 was much lower than of recent years, but the average since 1945 is much higher than the average of the previous ten years; there is some satisfaction however in the fact that the death rate has not increased.

TABLE III

Year	New Cases		Deaths		Death Rate per 10,000 of population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1926	34	9	20	1	8.1	0.4
1927	32	7	23	2	9.3	0.8
1928	32	5	18	2	7.0	0.8
1929	22	9	15	1	5.8	0.4
1930	35	10	26	2	10.1	0.8
1931	28	4	19	2	7.7	0.8
1932	28	5	21	2	8.3	0.8
1933	15	7	15	3	5.9	1.2
1934	24	11	12	5	4.7	1.9
1935	17	5	16	1	6.2	0.4
1936	10	6	10	0	3.8	0.0
1937	14	6	11	3	4.0	1.1
1938	16	1	12	0	4.2	0.0
1939	16	5	8	2	2.9	0.7
1940	16	2	12	0	5.2	0.0
1941	11	0	11	3	5.0	1.4
1942	9	4	12	0	5.3	0.0
1943	18	1	13	2	5.7	0.9
1944	11	5	11	1	4.8	0.4
1945	22	4	12	1	5.1	0.4
1946	25	1	11	0	4.4	0.0
1947	28	4	10	0	3.9	0.0
1948	23	2	12	0	4.5	0.0
1949	30	2	10	0	3.7	0.0
1950	19	8	9	3	3.2	1.1

I am indebted to Dr. S. Roy C. Price, of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, for the following figures relating to Tuberculosis :

(a) Patients attending Chest Clinic during 1950 :

	Adults		Children		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Def. Tb. (respiratory) ...	11	6	—	1	18
Def. Tb. (non-respiratory) .	—	1	2	1	4
Non. Tb. ....	24	47	17	26	114

These patients made a total of 440 attendances at the Clinic.

(b) Institutions to which patients were sent during 1950 :

All Saints' Hospital, Chatham ...	...	1
Grosvenor Sanatorium, Nr. Ashford ...	...	1
Grove Park Hospital, London ...	...	2
Preston Hall Sanatorium, Maidstone ...	...	3
Fairlight Sanatorium, Ore, Hastings ...	...	1
Haldane House, Bexhill-on-Sea ...	...	1
Sheppey General Hospital ...	...	5
Halton Hospital ...	...	1
Douglas House, Bournemouth ...	...	1

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the School Medical Inspection during 1950 :

(a) Number of Inspections :

(i) Periodic :

Entrants ...	...	384
Second Age Group ...	...	376
Third Age Group ...	...	203
Others ...	...	523
(ii) Special Inspections ...	...	365
(iii) Re-inspections ...	...	1267

b) Number found to require treatment :

Entrants	...	...	37	—	9.6% (12.5%)
Second Age Group	...	...	48	—	12.7% (15.8%)
Third Age Group	...	...	25	—	12.3% (6.6%)
Other periodic inspections	.	.	49	—	9.3%

c) Classification of general condition of pupils inspected during the year :

TABLE IV

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	" A " (Good)		" B " (Fair)		" C " (Poor)	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
Entrants .	384	143	37.3 (28.6)	204	53.1 (59.6)	37	9.6 (11.8)
Second. .	376	106	28.2 (25.6)	228	60.6 (64.0)	42	11.2 (10.4)
Third . .	203	64	31.5 (28.9)	130	64.1 (63.0)	9	4.4 (8.1)
Others. .	523	199	38.1 (36.4)	292	55.8 (63.6)	32	6.1 (—)
Totals . .	1486	512	34.4 (27.7)	854	57.5 (62.0)	120	8.1 (10.3)

d) Dental Inspection and Treatment :

Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers:

(i) Periodic age groups	...	...	332
(ii) Specials	...	...	108
(iii) Total number inspected	...	...	440

Number found to require treatment	119	—	27.0% (38.5%)
Number actually treated	...	...	409

Figures in brackets relate to 1949

# METEOROLOGY

Mr. E. W. Cooper, M.B.A.A., of "Ad Astra," Warden Bay, has very kindly given me the records of his observations during the year 1950.

## TEMPERATURE

	Mean of Maxi- mum	Mean of Mini- mum	Extremes	
			Highest Max. °F Day	Lowest Min. °F Day
January .....	40·65	37·00	52 on 11	25 on 30
February .....	44·20	39·71	60 on 17	32 on 1,26,28
March .....	46·90	41·30	63 on 8	29 on 1
April .....	47·80	41·10	62 on 30	32 on 25
May .....	54·80	47·40	66 on 22	42 on 1
June .....	63·56	54·33	82 on 7	47 on 16
July .....	64·50	56·00	76 on 21	51 on 13
August .....	64·31	55·90	78 on 22	49 on 3
September .....	57·47	52·30	73 on 4	45 on 23
October .....	52·83	46·90	69 on 5	35 on 29, 30
November .....	44·92	40·73	56 on 28	32 on 26
December .....	35·32	32·35	51 on 1	26 on 30
Year ... ..	51·43 Mean of	45·42 Max and Min. 48·43	82 June 7th	25 Jan. 30th

	Barometric Pressure (millibars)	Sunshine (hours)	Rainfall (inches)
January .....	1019.8	46.0	1.53
February .....	1006.0	86.9	3.25
March .....	1019.3	155.1	0.50
April .....	1005.7	176.9	1.28
May .....	1018.6	169.7	1.82
June .....	1017.1	273.9	0.99
July .....	1014.9	211.9	2.19
August .....	1012.9	192.8	1.66
September .....	1012.9	136.7	2.11
October .....	1017.1	139.0	0.34
November .....	1004.0	72.9	3.90
December .....	1005.0	38.2	1.66
YEAR ... ..	1012.8	1700.0	21.23

For the successful carrying on of the work of the Department I am indebted to the ever willing and cheerful co-operation of my various colleagues and especially to the very able and valuable assistance of Mr. Pankhurst, Chief Clerk in my Sheerness Office.

To the many Chairmen of Committees and other members of the various Councils I would express sincere thanks for their encouragement and consideration.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.



# Queenborough Town Council

1950

## *Mayor :*

Alderman Mrs. E. S. WEEKES, J.P.

## *Deputy-Mayor :*

Alderman J. S. BILLS, J.P.

## *Aldermen :*

R. J. Wellard                  R. J. Jennings

## *Councillors :*

J. Bentley  
F. C. Collis  
F. E. Cackett  
E. G. Dines  
Mrs. M. Dobner  
H. G. Harris  
W. L. E. Mason  
R. D. Sharrock  
E. Thompson  
Lt.-Cmdr. W. C. T. Weekes  
A. E. Wellard  
Miss D. L. Wood

## **Health Committee :**

### *Chairman :*

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.

### *Aldermen :*

R. J. Jennings  
R. J. Wellard

### *Councillors :*

J. Bentley  
F. C. Collis  
E. G. Dines  
E. Thompson  
Lt.-Cmdr. W. C. T. Weekes  
A. E. Wellard

### *Town Clerk :*

F. Marshall

### *Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :*

W. F. Dodds



*To the Queenborough Town Council*

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the people of Queenborough during 1950.

The Birth Rate for the year (12.7 per 1,000 of the population) again showed a considerable fall from that of the immediate post-war years, being only one half of the rate for 1946. It was the second lowest recorded during the past 50 years.

The Death Rate at 10.1 per 1,000 of the population was somewhat higher than in the previous year (7.9 per 1,000) but when corrected for age and sex distribution to 10.5 per 1,000 still compares favourably with that for England and Wales (11.6 per 1,000).

The general incidence of Infectious Diseases during the year was considerably less than in the previous year owing to the almost complete absence of cases of Measles. There was, however, a considerable increase in the number of cases of both Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough, though of mild type. It is pleasing to note that the percentage of children protected against Diphtheria by immunisation remains at a satisfactorily high level.

The new Bye-laws for the handling, wrapping and delivery of food, which were adopted by the Council in 1949, came into force in 1950.

Though the Borough has now built 88 houses since the end of the war, the waiting list shows little diminution. With the large proportion of industry within the area, there is an urgent need for the housing of many employees and it is unfortunate that the Borough's building programme cannot be expanded.

On the Sanitary side much credit is due to Mr. W. F. Dore for his ever careful and vigilant administration and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking him for his unfailing and willing assistance. I would also take this opportunity of thanking members of the Council for their help and kindly consideration.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.



## SECTION I.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### CLIMATE

There was a poor and unsettled summer followed by an exceptionally wet winter.

#### AREA IN ACRES

Land covered by water	...	5	}	1,103
Land	... ..	1,098		

A further 1,272 acres consists of 610 acres of foreshore and 2 acres subject to tidal waters and included in this area is the harbour which is owned by the Council.

#### POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-year

1950	...	...	...	...	...	3,070
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This figure shows an increase of 43 over the estimated population for 1949 and of 52 over the figure for 1948. The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths was compared with an increase of 33 in 1949.

#### NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

887. This is an increase of 26 over the previous year.

RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	...	£18,178
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SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE	...	...	...	...	...	£75
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## SECTION II.

### VITAL STATISTICS

The Crude Birth and Death Rates are the rates for the area based on the local population. Corrected rates, however, are arrived at by multiplying the local rates by what is known as a Comparability Factor supplied by the Registrar-General and this has the effect of adjusting the local rates to rates which would have occurred had the age and sex distribution of the local population been the same as that of England and Wales as a whole. This

enables a truer comparison to be made not only with the rate for England and Wales, but with the rates in other areas where the Crude Rate has been similarly adjusted.

The effect of this is that though Crude Rates in a static or semi-static population are useful indices for showing increases or decreases in Birth and Death Rates over a series of years, the Corrected Rate is the proper index to be taken for comparison either with England and Wales as a whole or with other areas similarly adjusted.

## 1. BIRTHS

(a) Live Births		Males		Females		Total
Legitimate	...	21	(15)	16	(37)	37 (5)
Illegitimate	...	2	(4)	—	(1)	2
Totals	...	23	(19)	16	(38)	39 (6)

The total number of births was 18 less than in the preceding year, representing a decrease of 31%.

Illegitimate births were 5.1% of the total births. In 1949 they were 8.8%.

## (b) Birth Rate

Crude Rate per 1,000 population	...	12.7	(1)
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	...	13.5	
Rate for England and Wales	...	15.8	

The Birth Rate shows another very sharp decline from the rates of the immediate post-war years and is the lowest recorded since 1927 when it was 11.8, the lowest ever during the period 1901-1950.

## (c) Still-Births

No still-births were registered during 1950 as compared with 3 in 1949.

## 2. DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes was 34, of which 20 were males and 14 females. The corresponding figures for 1949 were—total 24, males 17 and females 7.

(b) Death Rates

Crude rate per 1,000 population .....	10.1	(7.9)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population ...	10.5	(8.3)
Rate for England and Wales .....	11.6	

(c) The following table shows the causes of deaths of residents whether occurring within or without the Borough during the year.

TABLE I

Cause	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	1	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	2	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	6	—
Coronary disease, angina .....	1	—
Other heart disease .....	4	3
Other circulatory disease .....	1	2
Pneumonia .....	1	—
Bronchitis .....	—	1
Other disease of respiratory system .....	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis .....	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	—	1
Motor vehicle accidents .....	—	1
Suicide .....	1	—
Totals .....	20	11

The classification of the causes of deaths given in Table I above is slightly different from the classification used in similar tables in previous years. It has not been possible therefore to enter the corresponding figures for 1949.

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age again shows a downward trend, being 1 in 1950 as compared with 2 in 1949 and 5 in 1948. The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births is 25.6 as compared with 35.1 in 1949 and 66.7 in 1948. The rate for England and Wales was 29.8.

The single infant death was a child aged 3 months who succumbed to Broncho-Pneumonia, the child dying in hospital.

### SECTION III.

#### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. Following the epidemic of 1949, it was only to be expected that Measles would be almost absent during 1950, but there were more cases of Whooping Cough in the Borough than in any year since this disease was made notifiable in 1940 and the incidence of Scarlet Fever was the highest for the past seven years. There were no deaths from any of these diseases.

The total number of cases notified, number of cases admitted to isolation hospital, and the total deaths from each disease shown in the Registrar-General's classification of deaths are given in Table II below.

TABLE II

	Total	Total (1949)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1949)
Scarlet Fever ... ..	20	(5)	11	9	12	-	(-)
Whooping Cough ... ..	60	(1)	27	33	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles ... ..	3	(142)	3	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ... ..	-	(2)	-	-	-	1	(-)
Erysipelas ... ..	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Smallpox ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Totals ... ..	83	(151)	41	42	12	1	(-)

2. Table III below shows the age distribution of cases of Infectious Disease notified.

TABLE III

	At all ages	Age Groups								
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ... ..	20	-	2	8	9	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ... ..	60	-	10	19	27	3	-	1	-	-
Diphtheria ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ... ..	3	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eruptive Pyrexia ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ... ..	83	-	12	28	37	4	1	1	-	-

### 3 TUBERCULOSIS

(a) It is very satisfactory to record another reduction in the number of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, only 2 cases being notified in 1950 as compared with 4 in 1949 and 6 in 1948. In the previous year only one death occurred from this disease during 1950. This is less than the average for the last 10 years.

The following table shows particulars of new cases and of deaths during the year.

TABLE IV

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 15 years ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 25 years ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 to 35 years ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 years ... ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55 years ... ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 years ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ... ..	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

(b) The summary of cases on the Tuberculosis Register during 1950 is given in Table V.

TABLE V

### SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st Jan., 1950 .....	11	10	2	-	23
New notifications .....	2	-	-	-	2
Deaths of cases not previously notified .....	-	-	-	-	-
Cases restored to Register .....	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers from other districts .....	-	-	-	-	-
Totals .....	13	10	2	-	25
Deaths during year .....	-	1	-	-	1
Recovered .....	-	-	-	-	-
Removed from district .....	-	-	-	-	-
Totals .....	-	1	-	-	1
Number of cases remaining on Register, 31st Dec., 1950 .....	13	9	2	-	24



## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

By courtesy of the County Medical Officer the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age are reproduced :—

TABLE VI

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1950	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1950	Total number Immunised at end of 1950	Percentage of related population
1950	2	—	2	66.7 (64.3)
1949	36	—	41	
1948	6	—	56	
1947	2	—	58	
1946	—	—	51	
1945	2	14	56	96.9 (90.1)
1944	4	25	81	
1943	—	—	59	
1942	—	—	44	
1941	—	—	39	
1940	—	—	39	
1939	1	—	55	
1938	—	1	44	
1937	—	—	46	
1936	—	—	40	
Totals	53	40	711	85.5 (80.3)

## VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during 1950, contained in the following table :—

TABLE VII

Age group	Primary Vaccinations	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 ...	6	—
1 to 4 ...	9	1
5 to 14 ...	7	—
15 and over ...	7	5
Totals ...	29	6

## SECTION IV

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) The supply of water from the two deep wells at Rushend has continued to be both adequate and of reasonably good quality. Ten samples of raw water and 11 of treated water were taken for bacteriological examination and in 2 of the former B.coli (presumptive) were found.

The report on a sample taken for chemical analysis during the year is given below :—

	Parts per million
Total solid residue (dried at 180° C) ...	555
Chlorine ... ..	62
Free Ammonia (as Nitrogen) ... ..	0.6
Albuminoid Ammonia (as Nitrogen) ...	none
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ..	none
Nitrogen as Nitrites ... ..	none
Oxygen absorbed, $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 26.7° C ...	0.1
Oxygen absorbed, 4 hours at 26.7° C ...	0.2
Toxic Metals ... ..	not detected
Iron ... ..	3.0
Hardness :	
Permanent ... ..	140
Temporary ... ..	64
Total ... ..	204

In regard to this sample, the Public Analyst reported : “Iron is high, otherwise the water is of satisfactory organic quality and on the above chemical analysis should be fit for drinking.”

(b) All houses are supplied by mains direct, none being supplied by standpipe. The total consumption during the year was 39,511,000 gallons of which 12,612,000 were used for trade purposes and 26,899,000 for domestic purposes. This is a total average of 35.2 gallons per head of the population per day and a domestic consumption of 24 gallons per head per day.



## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) A further 400 yards of foul sewer and 200 yards of surface water sewer in connection with the Rushenden Housing Estate were constructed during the year.

(b) Eighteen houses at Pier Cottages, situated about half a mile from the town, are served by three cesspools, but the remainder of the houses in the Borough are all connected to main drainage.

(c) Sewage is disposed of untreated into the River Swale.

## 3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on a site between Pier Cottages and West Minster. Regular spraying for the prevention of fly breeding and periodic test baiting for rat infestation are carried out.

## 4. SCHOOLS' SANITATION

Satisfactory.

## 5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are three public conveniences, but provision is made only for males.

## 6. INSPECTIONS

Appendix A gives details of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

## NUISANCES

Details of nuisances abated are shown in Appendix B. All were dealt with by Informal notices.

## DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) Twenty disinfections after infectious disease were carried out.

(b) No disinfestations for bed bugs, fleas, etc., were called for.

## MOSQUITO CONTROL

Preventive measures to suppress mosquito breeding are taken at regular intervals by spraying ditches and other collections of

water with Malariol. The Rushenden area in particular suffered from a serious invasion of the Anopheline type during July in spite of these measures.

Spraying in the immediate vicinity of dwellings does alleviate the nuisance to a great extent, but it is obviously impracticable to treat the whole of the marshland area and a certain amount of nuisance from mosquitoes occasionally is to be expected. It was for this reason that an article giving advice to the public was prepared and the local Press very kindly published it in April.

#### 10. RODENT CONTROL

An annual test of the sewers in accordance with the Divisional Rodent Officer's instructions showed that they were completely free from rats. Details of complaints and treatment of infestations are given below :—

Number of complaints received	...	...	11
Infestations found	...	...	11
Infestations found on survey	...	...	3
Treated by L.A.'s operator	...	...	14
Treated by tenant or occupier	...	...	—
Estimated kill by poison	...	...	150

### SECTION V

#### HOUSING

1. The following figures show the number of houses constructed during 1950 and the total since the war.

Council houses :

				During 1950	Total built since the war
Completed	...	...	...	26	88
Under construction	...	...	...	6	—

Private enterprise :

Completed	...	...	...	—	3
Under construction	...	...	...	—	—

At the end of the year there were still 205 applicants on the waiting list for Council houses, 80 of whom resided outside the Borough.

2. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing is shown below :—

**Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—**

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	38
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	87
2.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	38

**Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:**

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	... ..	38
---	--------	----

**Action under Statutory Powers during the year :**

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	... ..	Nil
Proceedings under Public Health Acts	... ..	Nil
Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	... ..	Nil

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## SECTION VI

### FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION

#### FOOD BYE-LAWS

The Bye-laws with respect to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air came into force on 3rd July, 1950, and appear to be well complied with in the area.

#### MILK

There are no producers in the district but there are 9 retailers. Of these, 2 retail pasteurised milk, 2 T.T. (pasteurised), 5 sterilised milk and 4 non-designated milk. The non-designated milk is imported from London and is heat treated before despatch.

Eight samples were taken during the year and one (a pasteurised milk) was found not to comply with the prescribed tests.

### 3. ICE CREAM

Six premises are registered for sale and storage of Ice Cream but there are no manufacturers in the Borough.

### 4. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Regular inspections are made of butchers' shops and factory canteens. The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered :—

Milk	...	...	...	226 tins
Eggs	...	...	...	113
Fish	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Meat	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Cheesc	...	...	...	1 lb.

### 5. FISH FRYING

There are two fried fish shops and both are kept satisfactorily

### 6. BAKEHOUSES

There are two bakehouses in operation and both premises are kept in a satisfactory condition.

### 7. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

By courtesy of the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, I am able to give below the details of samples taken in the Borough during the year :—

Aspirin	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beef Sausagemeat	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blackcurrant jelly desert	...	...	...	...	...	1
Camphorated Oil	...	...	...	...	...	1
Castor Oil	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drages of Peppermint Oil, Menthol and Cinnamon Oil	...	...	...	...	...	1
Flour mixture	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fruit flavoured essence for making junket	...	...	...	...	...	1
Full cream condensed milk	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gin	...	...	...	...	...	1
Glycerine, Honey, Lemon and Citric Acid	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	18

Raspberry and Redcurrant Jam	...	...	1
Sherbet suckers	...	...	1
Sponge mixture	...	...	1
Sweetmeal suet pudding	...	...	1
Tomato ketchup	...	...	1
Whisky	...	...	1

All the above samples were genuine.

## SECTION VII

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :—

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities (no mechanical power) ... ..	—	—	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (mechanical power) ... ..	10	54	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	—	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found :—

	Found	Remedied
Sanitary conveniences (Section 7)—		
Unsuitable or defective ...	4	4

3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111) ... .. Nil

# APPENDIX A.

## DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

	No. of visits
Accumulations ... ..	4
Ashbins ... ..	53
Bakehouses ... ..	12
Drainage, visits and re-visits ... ..	24
Drains defective ... ..	7
Drainage re-laid ... ..	3
Factories and workplaces ... ..	54
Halls and places of entertainment ... ..	8
Rats and mice ... ..	7
Refuse tips ... ..	12
Schools ... ..	8
Shops (1934 Act) ... ..	41
Stables and piggeries ... ..	6
Water samples .. ..	12
Water supplies ... ..	12
Watercourses inspected ... ..	17
Mosquito control ... ..	54
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ... ..	38
Re-visits to above houses ... ..	49
Housing Survey inspections ... ..	17
Re-housing interviews and investigations ... ..	4
Infectious disease investigations ... ..	20
Meat shops and vehicles ... ..	27
Fried Fish shops ... ..	12
Grocers ... ..	14
Greengrocers and fruiterers ... ..	2
Dairies and milk shops ... ..	11
Ice cream retailers' premises ... ..	6
Restaurants ... ..	4
Food manufacturing premises ... ..	9
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>547</b>

# APPENDIX B.

## NUISANCES ABATED

	Number
Insufficient sanitary accommodation ... ..	4
Defective sanitary accommodation ... ..	9
Drainage repaired ... ..	7
Drainage reconstructed ... ..	3
Waste pipes ... ..	1
Dampness ... ..	34
Defective floors ... ..	11
Defective fireplaces and stoves ... ..	7
Washing coppers ... ..	2
Refuse receptacles ... ..	46
Accumulations of refuse ... ..	2
Keeping of animals ... ..	1
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>127</b>



# Sheerness Urban District Council

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1950

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*Chairman :* J. G. WARD, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :* R. J. DAVIE

*Councillors :*

W. C. Butterworth

A. G. Coats, J.P.

L. Garner, M.M.

Mrs. E. M. Lifton

H. E. Morris, J.P. (retired October)

Mrs. K. I. M. Sherrard (elected November)

C. F. Saddleton

A. F. Standen

R. W. Stone

Mrs. E. Tiltman

H. L. Wise

**Health Committee :**

*Chairman :* A. F. STANDEN

*Councillors :*

W. C. Butterworth

Mrs. E. M. Lifton

Mrs. E. Tiltman

H. L. Wise

*Clerk to the Council :*

J. Griffiths, Solicitor

*Senior Sanitary Inspector :*

D. E. Jacob, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

*Additional Sanitary Inspector :*

G. Lewis, M.S.I.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
TRINITY ROAD,  
SHEERNESS.

*To the Sheerness Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Sheerness for the year 1950.

The Birth Rate at 16.0 per 1,000 of the population was slightly lower than in 1949 (17.8 per 1,000). Although this rate has been dropping since 1947 when it was exceptionally high, it is still higher than the rates recorded in the years immediately preceding the war.

The Death Rate at 12.3 per 1,000 of the population showed very little change from that of the previous year (12.4 per 1,000). The Infant Mortality Rate at 19.2 per 1,000 births was, however, higher than in the previous two years (11.3 in 1949 and 16.1 in 1948) though less than half that for 1946 (56.3 per 1,000). It still compares favourably, however, with that for England and Wales as a whole (29.8 per 1,000).

The total number of Infectious Diseases notified in 1950 was very much lower than in 1949 due to the comparative absence of Measles. There were also less cases of Scarlet Fever, but Whooping Cough was very prevalent. New cases of Tuberculosis and death from this disease showed a decline. Perhaps the most interesting feature is the absence of Diphtheria for the past two years, the longest period that the town has been free from this disease.

The housing situation still remains serious. Although record number of 81 houses were built by the Council, there were still 417 applicants on the waiting list at the end of the year and to this figure must be added many more families who are living in sub-standard houses.

During the current year a Preliminary Survey has been made of the Mile Town and Blue Town areas and a special report submitted to the Health Committee suggesting a scheme for



dealing with the worst of the properties in these areas and the re-development of some of the sites in a programme extending over ten years. This report is printed in Appendix C.

Much has been done during the year to emphasise the need for improved standards in food hygiene and Byelaws in respect of the sale and delivery of food came into force in March of 1950.

For much of the work I am indebted to the ever-willing and able assistance and co-operation of Mr. D. E. Jacob, Senior Sanitary Inspector, and I would also take this opportunity of thanking members of the Council for their help and kindly consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.

---

## SECTION I

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### CLIMATE

There was a poor and dull summer followed by an exceptionally wet winter.

#### AREA

943 acres.

#### POPULATION

The total population, i.e., civilian and non-civilian, as estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-year 1950, 16,180.

This figure is a decrease of 220 on the similar estimate for the previous year.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	...	...	...	4,252
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-------

This figure shows an increase of 69 over 1949.

RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	£110,865
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SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE	...	...	...	£439
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## SECTION II

### VITAL STATISTICS

The Crude Birth and Death Rates are the rates for the area based on the local population. Corrected rates, however, are arrived at by multiplying the local rates by what is known as a Comparability Factor supplied by the Registrar-General and this has the effect of adjusting the local rates to rates which would have occurred had the age and sex distribution of the local population been the same as that of England and Wales as a whole. This enables a truer comparison to be made not only with the rate for England and Wales but with the rates in other areas where the Crude Rate has been similarly adjusted.

The effect of this is that though Crude Rates in a static or semi-static population are useful indices for showing increases or decreases in Birth and Death Rates over a series of years, the Corrected Rate is the proper index to be taken for comparison either with England and Wales as a whole or with other areas similarly adjusted.

#### 1. BIRTHS

(a) Live Births		Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	...	122 (128)	120 (121)	242 (249)
Illegitimate	...	10 (8)	8 (7)	18 (15)
Totals	...	132 (136)	128 (128)	260 (264)

The total number of births was 4 less than in 1949 (or 1.5%).  
 Illegitimate births were 6.9% of the total births (5.7%).

#### (b) Birth Rate

Crude Rate per 1,000 population	...	16.0 (17.0)
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	...	18.4
Rate for England and Wales	...	15.8

(c) Still-Births		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	3 (7)	1 (3)	4 (10)
Illegitimate	...	— (0)	— (0)	—

The Still-birth percentage of the total (live and still) births was 1.5% as compared with 3.6% in 1949.

Figures in brackets relate to the year 1949

## DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes was 199, of which 96 were males and 103 females. Corresponding figures for 1949 were—total 185, males 97 and females 88.

### (b) Death Rate

Crude Rate per 1,000 population	...	12.3 (12.4)
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	...	12.3 (11.5)
Rate for England and Wales	... ..	11.6

(c) The following table shows the causes of deaths of residents whether occurring within or without the district during the year :—

TABLE I

Cause	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	2	3
Syphilitic disease ... ..	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	5	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	5	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	7	11
Leukæmia, aleukæmia ... ..	—	1
Diabetes ... ..	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	6	14
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	15	6
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	7	2
Other heart disease ... ..	18	27
Other circulatory disease ... ..	2	7
Influenza ... ..	—	2
Pneumonia ... ..	3	1
Bronchitis ... ..	8	2
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	9	8
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	—	—
All other accidents ... ..	1	1
Suicide ... ..	—	2
TOTALS ... ..	96	103

The classification of the causes of deaths given in Table I above is slightly different from the classification used in similar tables in previous years. It has not been possible therefore to enter corresponding figures for 1949.

### 3. INFANT MORTALITY

(a) The number of deaths of Infants under one year of age was 5, being 2 more than in 1949 and giving an Infant Mortality Rate for the year of 19.2. Though this is an increase from the rate for 1949 (11.3) it is the third successive year that this rate has been below 20. The Rate for England and Wales was 29.8.

(b) The following table gives details of the 5 deaths.

TABLE II

Cause	Age at death	Place of death
Prematurity .....	1 week	Home
Hæmolytic disease of the newborn	4 days	Hospital
Kernicterus Rhesus incompatibility .....	6 months	Home
Prematurity .....	3 days	Hospital
Gastro enteritis .....	8 months	Home

### 4. NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION

Births exceeded Deaths by 61 in 1950 as compared with 121, 159 and 119 in the years 1949, 1948, 1947 and 1946 respectively.

## SECTION III

### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

As was to be expected after the epidemic of 1949 there were few cases of Measles in 1950. The 91 cases of Whooping Cough, however, represents a bigger figure than at any time since 1949 when the disease was made notifiable. There were, however, no deaths. The year 1950 marks the second successive year in which there were no notifications of Diphtheria.

The total number of cases notified, number of cases admitted to hospital, and the total deaths from each disease as given in the Registrar-General's classification of deaths are given in Table III below.

TABLE III

Disease	Total	Total (1949)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1949)
Scarlet Fever ... ..	22	(44)	9	13	8	-	(-)
Whooping Cough ... ..	91	(15)	43	48	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles ... ..	4	(518)	1	3	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenza)	3	(7)	1	2	-	4	(6)
Epidemic Typhus ... ..	7	(5)	4	3	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Septic Pyrexia ... ..	4	(3)	-	4	-	-	(-)
Scarlet Pyrexia ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Throat ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Totals ... ..	131	(593)	58	73	8	4	(6)

2. Table IV below shows the age distribution of cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1950.

TABLE IV.

Disease	At all ages	Age Groups									Totals ...
		Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	3 to 4 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 14 years	15 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 and over	
Scarlet Fever .....	22	-	1	6	15	-	-	-	-	-	3
Whooping Cough .....	91	5	25	24	36	-	-	1	-	-	2
Diphtheria .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles .....	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) .....	3	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	3
Erysipelas .....	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Smallpox .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	131	5	27	30	56	-	3	5	2	3	

### 3. TUBERCULOSIS

Ten cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and one case coming to knowledge posthumously makes 11 new cases during the year. This is 3 less than the previous year and also less than the average for the past 5 years.

Deaths assigned to Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1950 were 5. This again is 3 less than in the previous year but only 1 less than the average over the past 5 years.

Of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis only 2 cases were notified. There were no deaths assigned to this cause.



Table V gives particulars of new cases and deaths during the year while Table VI gives a summary of cases on the Tuberculosis Register.

TABLE V

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pul-monary		Non-Pul-monary		Pul-monary		Non-Pul-monary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years .....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 15 years .....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 to 25 years .....	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 years .....	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 to 45 years .....	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
45 to 55 years .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 years .....	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over .....	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals ...	5	6	-	2	2	3	-	-

TABLE VI  
SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st Jan., 1950 ... ..	51	34	9	14	108
New notifications ... ..	5	5	-	2	12
Deaths of cases not previously notified	-	1	-	-	1
Cases restored to register ... ..	-	-	-	1	1
Transfers from other districts ... ..	4	3	-	-	7
Totals ... ..	60	43	9	17	129
Deaths during year ... ..	2	3	-	-	5
Recovered ... ..	2	-	-	-	2
Removed from district ... ..	3	-	1	1	5
Deaths of cases on Register but not due to Tuberculosis ... ..	-	2	-	-	2
Totals ... ..	7	5	1	1	14
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st Dec., 1950 ... ..	53	38	8	16	115

#### 4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The County Medical Officer has kindly supplied me with Diphtheria Immunisation figures and these have been included in the following table. The percentage figures in brackets relate to 1949.

TABLE VII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1950	Reinforcing inoculation in 1950	Total number immunised at end of 1950	Percentage of related population
1950	27	—	27	62.3% (57.5)
1949	170	—	184	
1948	25	—	268	
1947	4	—	166	
1946	3	3	213	
1945	3	23	201	87.7% (83.9)
1944	—	9	222	
1943	—	—	164	
1942	—	—	197	
1941	—	1	198	
1940	—	—	148	
1939	1	—	148	
1938	—	3	186	
1937	—	2	174	
1936	—	1	171	
Totals ...	233	42	2667	77.5% (73.2)

#### 5. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following particulars of persons vaccinated against smallpox during 1950.

TABLE VIII

Age Group	Primary Vaccinations	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 year ...	91	—
1 to 4 years ...	62	5
5 to 14 years ...	20	6
15 and over ...	20	44
Totals ...	193	55



## SECTION IV

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER SUPPLY

(a) The Water Supply is derived from two boreholes, one at Trinity Road and one at Sheerness East, and also through bulk purchase from the Sheppey Water Company.

The total consumption during the year amounted to  $151\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons, a daily consumption of 25.6 gallons per head.

251,500 gallons were pumped from Trinity Road borehole.

530,400 gallons were pumped from Sheerness East borehole and

767,000 gallons were purchased in bulk from Sheppey Water Co.

(b) Results of chemical analyses of samples of water from the boreholes are given below :—

	Trinity Road	Sheerness East
	Parts per million	
Total solid residue (dried at 180°C)	603	610
Chlorine .....	64	53
Free Ammonia (as Nitrogen) .....	0.80	1.0
Albuminoid Ammonia (as Nitrogen)	none	0.01
Nitrogen as Nitrates .....	none	none
Nitrogen as Nitrites .....	present	present
Oxygen absorbed, $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 26.7°C	0.16	0.16
Oxygen absorbed, 4 hours at 26.7°C	0.31	0.33
Toxic metals .....	not detected	not detected
pH .....	8.10	8.26
Hardness :		
Permanent .....	0	12
Temporary .....	46	68

Analyst's Remarks.—These waters are of satisfactory organic quality and on the above chemical analyses should be fit for drinking.

(c) 24 samples of raw water were taken for bacteriological examination and in one of these presumptive *B. coli* were found. Of 7 samples of treated water, 3 showed the presence of presumptive *B. coli*. In none of the 81 samples were typical *B. coli* found.

(d) Approximately 95% of the total dwelling-houses are supplied by mains direct to houses, the remaining 5% being supplied by standpipes. The supply is intermittent.

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) The sewers have been extended during 1950 for the purposes of Housing Estate development on the No. 5 Housing Site at West Minster where 211 yards of 9" sewer and 169 yards of 6" sewer have been laid.

(b) All houses in the district are connected to main drainage.

## 3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

The old West Minster tip, adjacent to the sea wall, was closed in October and a new tip started on the western section of the canal towards West Minster. The old tip was re-opened for a short period when heavy rains made the temporary track to the new tip unusable but it has now been sealed with soil after being treated for rat infestation with satisfactory results.

The new tip is satisfactory and there has been an ample supply of soil for covering and no signs of infestation have been apparent.

## 4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

No nuisances were reported or found at the Schools.

## 5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

A pre-war scheme for new conveniences for both sexes at the eastern end of the promenade, Marine Parade, was re-considered and approved. It is expected that the works will be undertaken during the coming year.

Conveniences exist at the Pier, near the Boating Pool, Swimming Pool, Welfare Clinic, and adjoining the Public Baths in Wood Street.

## 6. PUBLIC BATHS

(a) Slipper Baths.—There was an increase in the number of persons using the Slipper Baths in Wood Street which were opened in 1949, the average weekly figure rising from 110 persons in 1949 to 123 in 1950.

(b) Open Air Swimming Pool.—Samples of sea water from the Aquarena swimming pool were taken regularly during the season and all the results were very satisfactory, showing the new chlorinating plant to be working efficiently.

Due to the poor summer, the attendance at the Aquarena fell to approximately 33,000 during the 18 weeks it was open. The highest number of bathers in one day was 816 while the average for the warmer spells was 725 per day.

## 7. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

## 8. LETHAL CHAMBER FOR CATS AND DOGS

A lethal chamber supplied by the R.S.P.C.A. affords facilities for the destruction of sick animals, the charges being 1/6 for a cat and 2/- for a dog. Strays are only destroyed when brought in by the Police.

## 9. CAMPING

The sanitary amenities of the one camping site in the district have been maintained adequately throughout the year. The site is at present licensed for 25 movable dwellings and is fully utilised during the summer months.

## 10. INSPECTIONS

Details of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors are shown in Appendix A.

### 1. NUISANCES

Details of nuisances abated during the year are given in Appendix B.

### 2. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) 67 premises were disinfected after cases of infectious disease.

(b) The following are details of premises disinfested :—

(i) Bed Bugs —

Council houses	...	...	...	Nil
Other premises	...	...	...	21

(ii) Fleas —

Council houses	...	...	...	Nil
Other premises	...	...	...	5

(iii) Other insect pests —

Council houses	...	...	...	2
Other premises	...	...	...	7

(c) 8 lots of furniture and bedding were treated with Zaldecide as a precautionary measure before lettings were made to certain selected housing applicants.

(d) Zaldecide spray and powder, both containing D.D.T., continue to be used effectively against vermin and other insect pests.

Formalin is used for the disinfection of rooms after cases of infectious disease.

Delay in the delivery of certain components of the new steam disinfectors prevented its use during most of the year, but it is now in full working order.

### 13. MOSQUITO CONTROL

This year treatment has been greatly facilitated by the cleaning out of dykes by the drainage authority. A suitable oil with D.D.T. (Malariol H.S.) is applied to water surfaces at frequent intervals and surrounding vegetation and animal houses are sprayed with a water diluted D.D.T. emulsion.

In view of the extent of likely breeding places in the area in close proximity to dwellings, the treatment does much to minimise this nuisance.

### 14. RODENT CONTROL

(a) The following are details of complaints received and treatment carried out during the year :—

Number of complaints received	...	...	79
Infestations found	...	...	76
Treated by Local Authority's Operator	...	...	74
Treated by Occupier	...	...	2

(b) The sewers were treated twice during the year, in January and July. On the first treatment 14 out of a total of 117 manholes baited showed takes, and on the second 8 out of a total of 29 manholes showed takes.

(c) The anti-social habits of some residents in some parts of the town in throwing kitchen scraps and waste bread on to vacant land encourages rodents and especially in the old timber structures quickly leads to house infestation.

## SECTION V

### HOUSING

#### HOUSING PROGRESS

(a) The following table shows the number of houses built during 1950 and the total since the war :—

(i) Council houses —	During 1950	Total since end of war
Temporary, completed .....	—	46
Permanent, completed .....	81	279
Permanent, under construction	55	

(ii) Private ownership —

Permanent, completed .....	10	13
Permanent, under construction	1	

(b) There were 704 names on the waiting list for Council houses at the beginning of 1950 and although a revision of the list in December, 1950, weeded out a large number of applicants, who, for various reasons, did not wish to remain on the list, there were still 417 applicants on 31st December, 1950. The following figures are taken from the analysis of housing applications made by the Senior Sanitary Inspector at the end of the year.

Size of family	Living in house	Living in rooms		
		1 room	2 rooms	3 or more
2	16	23	25	3
3	59	36	59	6
4	46	19	22	6
5	41	1	5	1
6	19	—	1	—
7	10	—	—	2
Others	17	—	—	—
Totals	208	79	112	18



2. Demolition Orders were made on 4 dwelling-houses during the year, viz.,

- 30, King Street, Blue Town.
- 12, Chapel Street, Blue Town.
- 110, Russell Street, Mile Town.
- 20, King's Head Alley, Blue Town.

Eight houses were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders made before 1950.

Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is shown below.

#### A—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	209
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	44
2 (a)	Number of houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	1
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	7
3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
4	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	19

#### B—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	1
---	---

## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

1 Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- |   |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices   | ... | ... | Nil |

2 Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- |  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|
| (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 5   |   |
| (b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice            | ... | 5 |

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- |   |     |     |     |   |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders    | ... | ... | ... | 8 |

---

## SECTION VI

### FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION

#### 1 FOOD BYELAWS

The new Byelaws with respect to handling, wrapping and conveyance of food and sale of food in the open air came into force on 12th March, 1950.

#### 2 FOOD HYGIENE EDUCATION

The Health Department arranged a public meeting to which all food traders in the district were invited. The invitation was extended to food traders in Queenborough and Sheppey Rural District. The Medical Officer of Health addressed the meeting on Food Hygiene and appropriate films were shown by the Central Office of Information.



Display publicity matter was also exhibited later in the year in the town and the practical implication of the principles of food hygiene was stressed by the Sanitary Inspectors when visiting food preparing premises. In a seaside town the temporary seasonal catering staff is considerable and it is hoped that the information gained by managements and permanent staffs will assist them in the supervision of temporary staff.

### 3. MILK SUPPLY

There are no producers in the area. The following designations are retailed by 21 registered distributors :—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	2	retailers
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	2	„
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	19	„

There is no raw milk retailed in the town. 32 samples of milk were examined, 31 were found to be satisfactory but 1 (Pasteurised Milk) did not comply with the prescribed tests.

### 4. ICE CREAM

The number of premises registered for the manufacture, sale or storage of Ice Cream are :—

Sale and Storage	...	...	...	...	29
Manufacture	...	...	...	...	6
Storage only	...	...	...	...	Nil

The standard of manufacture and retail distribution was satisfactorily maintained. The employment of inexperienced persons at one establishment necessitated more frequent supervision to remedy unsatisfactory results revealed by sampling. 10 samples were submitted for examination and were graded as follows :—

Grade I	...	...	...	...	23
Grade II	...	...	...	...	15
Grade III	...	...	...	...	15
Grade IV	...	...	...	...	5

### 5. INSPECTION OF MEAT & OTHER FOODS

There has been a sustained improvement in the transport of

eat to the district and there was no occasion to condemn any eat owing to bad handling.

A welcome introduction into some meat and fish shops has been the provision of refrigerated display cabinets, but several premises dealing in cooked and sliced meats, etc., have yet to install refrigeration and there has been some food condemned which would not have occurred had refrigeration facilities been available for this type of food.

Approximately 14 cwt. of food was found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered. Details are given below :

Cereals	...	...	...	...	178 lbs.
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	49 lbs.
Milk	...	...	...	...	125 tins
Meat—butchers	...	...	...	...	152 lbs.
tinned	...	...	...	...	73 lbs.
preserved	...	...	...	...	101 lbs.
Rabbit	...	...	...	...	121 lbs.
Duck	...	...	...	...	12 birds
Bacon	...	...	...	...	136 lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Pies	...	...	...	...	29 lbs.
Fish—fresh	...	...	...	...	84 lbs.
tinned	...	...	...	...	33 lbs.
Eggs	...	...	...	...	891
Butter	.....	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	48 lbs.
Fruit	...	...	...	...	63 lbs.
Preserves	...	...	...	...	81 lbs.
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	51 lbs.
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	78 lbs.

## 6 FISH FRYING

There are 8 fried fish shops and all are maintained satisfactorily. The improvements at the premises mentioned in last year's report were completed during the year.

## 7. SHELL-FISH

Inspections have been made of the premises where shell-fish are prepared and one establishment has obtained accommodation more adequate and separate from domestic premises. There has been improvement in the condition in which these premises are kept.

## 8. BAKEHOUSES

There are four bakehouses in the district. Three are satisfactory but one small establishment has not adequate premises and the proprietor has been told to obtain alternative and satisfactory premises in which to continue business. The existing premises are admittedly incapable of complying with the standards required by the Food and Drugs Act and Food Byelaws in spite of past efforts to obtain hygienic conditions.

## 9. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am able to give details of samples taken under this Act in the Sheerness Urban District by courtesy of the Chief Inspector of Weights & Measures of the Kent County Council.

Arrowroot .....	1	Jam Doughnuts .....	1
Bitter Beer .....	3	Linctus Lollies .....	1
Blancmange Powder .....	1	Liquid Paraffin .....	1
Bread and Butter .....	1	Milk .....	1
Butter .....	1	Cough & Cold Cure .....	1
Butter Flavoured Sweets...	2	Olive Oil .....	1
Cake Flour Mixture .....	1	Phosphate Compound .....	1
Calamine Lotion .....	1	Potato Crisps .....	1
Cherry Cough Syrup .....	1	Powdered Borax .....	1
Christmas Pudding .....	1	Processed Peas .....	1
Condensed Milk .....	1	Rose Hip Syrup .....	1
Cream Doughnuts .....	2	Salad Cream .....	1
Cream of Tartar .....	1	Sulphur Ointment .....	1
Fish and Chips .....	2	Surgical Spirit .....	1
Frying Oil .....	1	Tapioca Dessert .....	1
Ginger Conserve .....	1	Vegemite .....	1
Ice Cream .....	2	Whisky .....	1
Icing .....	1	White Pepper .....	1
Iodized Throat Tablets ...	1	Zinc Ointment .....	1

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

Salad Cream.—Contained no lecithin phosphoric acid indicating that it contained no egg yolk. Vegetable oil 26%. The manufacturers of this article took appropriate steps to withdraw the Salad Cream from sale. No further action was taken concerning the sample.

Milk.—Inferior in fat. 10% deficient. The producer was interviewed and agreed to alter milking times so as to ensure more even periods between morning and afternoon milking.

## SECTION VII

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

#### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ... ..	11	16	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power) ... ..	50	36	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ... ..	3	2	—
Total ...	64	54	—

#### 2. Cases in which defects were found—Nil.

#### 3. OUTWORK

Nature of work	No. of outworkers	Action under Secs. 110 and 111
Making of wearing apparel .....	2	Nil

## APPENDIX A

### Visits made by the Sanitary Inspector

The following table indicates the number and type of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspector during the year :—

	Visits Re-v
Accumulations ... ..	2
Ashbins ... ..	4
Bakehouses ... ..	1
Bug infested houses ... ..	1
Verminous houses (excluding bugs) and insect pests ...	...
Filthy conditions ... ..	4
Defective sanitary accommodation ... ..	2
Drainage, visits and re-visits ... ..	2
Drains defective ... ..	...
Drainage re-laid ... ..	...
Factories and Workplaces ... ..	...
Halls and Places of Entertainment ... ..	...
P.H. Interviews and Appointments ... ..	8
Movable Dwellings ... ..	...
Marine Stores, etc. ... ..	...
Public Conveniences ... ..	...
Rats and Mice ... ..	6
Refuse Collection ... ..	...
Refuse Tips ... ..	...
Schools ... ..	...
Shops (1934) ... ..	...
Stables and Piggeries ... ..	...
Keeping of Animals ... ..	...
Swimming Pools ... ..	...
Water, Bacteriological and Chemical ... ..	...
Water Supply visits ... ..	...
Watercourses inspected ... ..	...
Mosquito control ... ..	...
Salvage visits ... ..	...
Houses inspected under P.H. Acts ... ..	...
Re-visits to above houses ... ..	...
Houses inspected under Ho. Regs., 1932 ... ..	...
Re-visits to above ... ..	...
Inspections in Clearance Areas ... ..	...
Re-visits to above ... ..	...
Miscellaneous housing visits ... ..	...
Re-housing interviews and investigations ... ..	1
Infectious disease investigations ... ..	...
Disinfections ... ..	...
Visits to meat shops and vehicles ... ..	...
Fishmongers and Poulterers ... ..	...

					Visits and Re-visits
ried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	7
rocers	...	...	...	...	88
reengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	9
airies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	13
e Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	21
estaurants	...	...	...	...	41
ood manufacturing premises	...	...	...	...	15
milk samples	...	...	...	...	32
e Cream samples	...	...	...	...	58
iscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	...	81
oke, Fumes and Dust	...	...	...	...	53
iscellaneous interviews	...	...	...	...	124
Total visits					4,958

## APPENDIX B

### Nuisances and Defects remedied during the year

ufficient sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	3
ffective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	11
ainage repaired	...	...	...	...	12
ainage cleansed	...	...	...	...	63
ainage reconstructed	...	...	...	...	2
aks	...	...	...	...	2
stc pipes	...	...	...	...	6
in water pipes and eaves gutters	...	...	...	...	16
mpness	...	...	...	...	28
ofs	...	...	...	...	77
ills and ceilings	...	...	...	...	80
ors	...	...	...	...	15
ndows and ventilation	...	...	...	...	19
eplaces and stoves	...	...	...	...	21
ishing coppers	...	...	...	...	4
ater supplies	...	...	...	...	5
rd paving	...	...	...	...	3
ouse receptacles	...	...	...	...	30
oke nuisance	...	...	...	...	3
umulations of refuse	...	...	...	...	14
eping of animals	...	...	...	...	5
ominous rooms	...	...	...	...	50
ecellaneous	...	...	...	...	18
hy conditions	...	...	...	...	16



## **SHEERNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

---

Report by the Medical Officer of Health and Senior Sanitary Inspector in conjunction with the Engineer and Surveyor on Slum Clearance.

---

As the Council are aware, many of the inhabitants of Sheerness are at present living in houses which would and should have been condemned years ago had other suitable accommodation been available. Since the end of the war, however, houses provided by the Council have been mainly given to families living under seriously overcrowded conditions, usually in lodgings, and in only a small proportion has the condition of the house been the chief factor in granting the tenancy of a Council house. It is now suggested that the time has come when the Council must give greater consideration to the necessity of re-housing tenants who are living in premises which are structurally so dilapidated and so lacking in sanitary amenities as to be prejudicial to health.

It is estimated that in Sheerness there are at present approximately 300-350 houses which should be condemned. Some are so bad that they should be dealt with at once, others might be considered habitable for a year or so but are not worth repairing, and others might with essential repairs be kept in occupation for still longer periods. None will ever be other than seriously sub-standard owing to their bad arrangement, sanitary defects and lack of amenities. It is suggested that all these properties be dealt with in accordance with the following slum clearance scheme.

The areas in which the greatest amount of seriously sub-standard properties lie are Mile Town and Blue Town and as the Council have already approved in principle plans for re-development of these areas it would appear reasonable to co-ordinate as far as possible schemes of slum clearance with the scheme for re-development. Accepting that principle, it is suggested an immediate start be made with the clearance of properties in Mile Town on the site of which it is proposed in the re-development to build flats. It is further suggested that the process of clearance with the accompanying re-building be spread over a period of 10 years divided into five 2-yearly stages. 2-yearly stages are suggested as better than yearly stages as it will enable clearance to be taken large enough to give a reasonably good building but small enough not to make too great a demand on re-housing. If, however, the suggested plan is to attain its object, i.e., clearance of the worst properties and re-housing the tenants with



period of 10 years, it is essential that there be no delay between the stages. To prevent that it will be necessary to have all decisions made as to the properties to be dealt with, all preliminary work in relation to obtaining clearance and/or compulsory purchase orders, and the building programmes, well advanced before each stage is due to commence.

So far we have been discussing clearance areas in that part of Mile Town on which in the re-development plan it is proposed to build flats. Coincident with that work, however, it is suggested that in each 2-yearly stage there be included other bad properties outside that area. These are in Mile Town in that portion of the re-development plan which has been considered to be suitable for shops and public buildings and there are many similar properties in Blue Town. It is suggested that some proportion of these be included in each of the 2-yearly stages. Some may be suitable for clearance areas (with possibly compulsory purchase if considered desirable), others will be more suitable to be dealt with as individual unfit houses. Some of these sites may be suitable for re-development as open spaces, but it is not considered that many of them will be suitable for re-housing. Most of these areas require clearing out rather than re-building.

A plan showing approximately the areas to be dealt with and the order of procedure for putting the above scheme into operation will be submitted to the Committee. The following statement gives a summary of the houses to be dealt with and the re-housing programme for each of the 2-yearly periods.

Years		Houses for demolition	Families displaced	Re-housed in flats	Re-housed elsewhere	Total to be re-housed
1st and 2nd	...	45	40	18	22	40
3rd and 4th	...	58	50	27	23	50
5th and 6th	...	70	70	39	31	70
7th and 8th	...	97	90	12	78	90
9th and 10th	...	91	90	15	75	90
Total ...		361	340	111	229	340

In regard to the programme the following observations are made.

(a) An essential pre-requisite for the programme is the ability of the Council to re-house the tenants displaced. Though there is no legal liability to provide equivalent accommodation for individual unfit houses demolished, as in clearance areas, it is assumed that the Council would accept that responsibility. The programme outlined means the demolition of approximately 340 houses in 10 years. Under present governmental instructions, houses to re-house the tenants from slum clearance must be supplied out of the Council's yearly allocation. It is suggested therefore that out of

that allocation 20 houses a year be allocated to this programme during the first 2-yearly period and that that number be stepped up to 25 houses per year for the second 2-yearly period and to 35 for the third period and thereafter to 45 houses per year. The reason for the progressive increase is that it seems reasonable to expect that during progressive years (i) the number of other urgent cases on the Council's housing list will gradually decrease and (ii) that the number of houses the Council will be able to build will gradually increase.

(b) Clearance areas in that part of Mile Town on which re-building is proposed have been outlined to correspond with the sites required for re-building. These areas must therefore be taken as a whole though circumstances may necessitate alterations in their precedence.

(c) Other houses have been listed for demolition in an approximate order of urgency on present assessment of condition. If some deteriorate sooner than others they may require to be dealt with in different order.

(d) It has been presumed that the flats to be built will be 3-storey flats. Should, however, only 2-storey flats be built or should conventional type houses be built in the re-development area, the overspill to other areas will be correspondingly increased.

*October, 1951.*

# heppey Rural District Council

1950

*Chairman :*

W/Cmr. W. E. JAMES, J.P., C.C.

*Vice-Chairman :*

R. N. BIGG

*Councillors :*

H. A. Auty  
T. H. Dale  
W. Davies  
A. P. Dummott  
W. S. Evans  
A. Johnson, J.P.  
C. Love  
H. C. Love  
G. T. Parris  
F. H. Purvis  
A. E. Richards

## HEALTH COMMITTEE :

*Chairman :*

H. A. Auty

*Councillors :*

W. Davies  
W. S. Evans  
G. T. Parris  
F. H. Purvis

*Clerk to the Council :*

S. P. Walton, A.C.I.S., F.R.V.A., F.R.ECON.S.

*Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :*

E. F. Brading, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

*Additional Sanitary Inspector :*

T. E. Davies

Public Health Department,  
Trinity Road,  
Sheerness

*To The Sheppey Rural District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Sheppey Rural District during 1950.

Following the general trend, the Birth Rate at 17.9 per 1,000 of the population again shows a fall in comparison with recent years, but the fall is not so marked as in other districts on the Island. It is also the highest on the Island.

The Death Rate at 11.2 per 1,000 of the population is also slightly lower than in 1949 (11.8 per 1,000), but the Infant Mortality Rate at 25.1 per 1,000 births shows a slight increase on the rates for 1949 and 1948.

The total number of infectious diseases notified was considerably lower than the previous year because Measles was almost absent, but Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever were much more prevalent than usual. There were two cases of Poliomyelitis but for the second successive year the district was completely free from Diphtheria.

The temporary arrangement with the Air Ministry whereby their Disposal Works at Leysdown has taken sewage from the sewers already existing in the village has proved of great benefit and the serious nuisances which I understand arose in 1949 were not repeated.

The appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector has naturally led to better supervision of all Public Health matters and this is reflected in the improved standards of hygiene in holiday camps and food preparing places.

For much of the work I am indebted to the able and willing co-operation of Mr. Brading and to Mr. Davics, the Sanitary Inspector, and I would also take this opportunity of thanking members of the Council for their help and kindly consideration.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.

## SECTION I

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### CLIMATE

There was a poor and dull summer followed by an exceptionally wet winter.

#### AREA

20,319 acres.

#### POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-year 1950 — 1957. This estimate is 74 less than the figure for 1949.

#### NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

3,275.

RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	£51,284
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---------

SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE	...	...	...	...	£178/13/11
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	------------

## SECTION II

### VITAL STATISTICS

The Crude Birth and Death Rates are the Rates for the area based on the local population. Corrected Rates, however, are arrived at by multiplying the local rates by what is known as a comparability Factor supplied by the Registrar-General and this has the effect of adjusting the local rates to rates which would have occurred had the age and sex distribution of the local population been the same as that of England and Wales as a whole. This enables a truer comparison to be made not only with the rate for England and Wales, but with the rates in other areas where the Crude Rate has been similarly adjusted.

The effect of this is that though Crude Rates in a static or semi-static population are useful indices for showing increases or decreases in Birth and Death Rates over a series of years, the Corrected Rate is the proper index to be taken for comparison over with England and Wales as a whole or with other areas similarly adjusted.

#### BIRTHS

##### (a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate ...	75 (79)	77 (76)	152 (155)
Illegitimate ...	6 (5)	1 (11)	7 (16)
Totals ...	81 (84)	78 (87)	159 (171)

The total number of births was 12 (or 7.5%) less than in 1949.

The percentage of illegitimate births was 4.4% of the total births, compared with 9.3% in the previous year.

##### (b) Birth Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population ...	...	17.9 (19.3)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population	...	18.1
Rate for England and Wales ...	...	15.8

\*Figures in brackets relate to 1949



**(c) Still-Births**

	Males		Females		Totals	
Legitimate ...	1	(2)	2	(2)	3	(4)
Illegitimate ...	—	(0)	—	(0)	—	(0)
Totals ...	1	(2)	2	(2)	3	(4)

Still-births were 1.8% of the total (live and still) births. In 1949 they were 2.3%.

**2. DEATHS**

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes was 99 of which 60 were males and 39 females. The corresponding figures for 1949 were—total 105, males 56 and females 49.

**(b) Death Rate**

Crude Rate per 1,000 population .....	11.2 (11.8)
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population .....	10.5 (11.3)
Rate for England and Wales .....	11.6

(c) The following table shows the causes of deaths of residents whether occurring within or without the district during the year.

**TABLE I**

Cause					Males	Females
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Meningococcal infections ...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	4	2
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	...	...	8	—
Hypertension with heart disease ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other heart disease ...	...	...	...	...	14	11
Other circulatory disease ...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	5	2
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Congenital malformations ...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	4	5
Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
All other accidents ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	—	1
All causes ...					60	39

The classification of the causes of deaths given in Table above is slightly different from the classification used in similar tables in previous years. It has not been possible therefore to enter the corresponding figures for 1949.



### 3. INFANT MORTALITY

(a) The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 4, the same as in 1949. The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 25.1 as compared with 23.4 the previous year.

(b) Details of the 4 infant deaths are given in the following table :—

TABLE II

Cause	Age at death	Place of Death
Convulsions and Broncho Pneumonia ...	5 months	Home
Pulmonary Atelectasis ... ..	1 day	Hospital
Hæmolytic disease of newly born ... ..	3 days	Hospital
Hydrocephalus and Meningococcal Meningitis ... ..	8 months	Hospital

(c) The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 29.8 per 1,000 live births as compared with 32 in 1949.

### 4. NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION

The excess of births over deaths during the year was 60 as compared with 66, 107, 112 and 88 in the years 1949, 1948, 1947 and 1946 respectively.

## SECTION III

### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. Whooping Cough was very prevalent during the year, more cases being notified than during any year since 1940 when the disease was made notifiable. There was also a considerable increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, the number notified being more than double the average for the preceding 10 years. The disease was, however, relatively mild.

The two cases of Poliomyelitis were both non-paralytic; one was a resident whilst the other developed the disease during a holiday here. Both cases recovered.

No case of Meningococcal infection was reported but one death is shown to have occurred from this disease. The case was diagnosed and died in a London hospital.

One case of Malaria was reported but investigation showed that the infection had almost certainly been contracted in the Far East during the previous 12 months.

The total number of cases notified, number of cases admitted to isolation hospital, and the total deaths from each disease as shown in the Registrar-General's classification of deaths are given in Table III below.

TABLE III.

	Total Total (1949)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths Deaths (1949)
Scarlet Fever ... ..	27 ( 6)	12	15	12	- (-)
Whooping Cough ... ..	87 ( 35)	42	45	-	- (-)
Diphtheria ... ..	- ( -)	-	-	-	- (-)
Measles ... ..	13 (239)	7	6	-	- (-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ... ..	15 ( 18)	7	8	-	7 (6)
Erysipelas ... ..	5 ( 10)	2	3	-	- (-)
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	- ( -)	-	-	-	1 (-)
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	2 ( -)	-	2	2	- (-)
Dysentery ... ..	2 ( -)	-	2	-	- (-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	- ( -)	-	-	-	- (-)
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1 ( -)	-	1	1	- (-)
Smallpox ... ..	- ( -)	-	-	-	- (-)
Typhoid ... ..	- ( -)	-	-	-	- (-)
Malaria ... ..	1 ( -)	1	-	-	- (-)
Food Poisoning ... ..	- ( -)	-	-	-	- (-)
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>153 (308)</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8 (6)</b>

Table IV below shows the age distribution of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year.

TABLE IV.

Disease	At all ages	Age Groups								
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ... ..	27	-	2	8	17	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ... ..	87	7	24	32	19	2	2	1	-	-
Diphtheria ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ... ..	13	-	2	5	5	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ... ..	15	-	-	1	2	1	-	2	3	6
Epidemic Typhus ... ..	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bacterial Dysentery ... ..	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Septic Pyrexia ... ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Smallpox ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bacillary Dysentery ... ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ...	153	8	28	47	44	4	3	5	6	8

### 3. TUBERCULOSIS

(a) The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during 1950, namely, 6, was less than half of the figure for the previous year, namely 13. The figure is, however, high in comparison with previous years. It is also interesting to note that the number of Non-Pulmonary cases notified, namely 6, with 3 deaths assigned to this cause, is the highest incidence in the past 25 years. As malaria is so frequently the cause of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, the figures lead to some disquiet.

The following table gives particulars of new cases and deaths during the year.

TABLE V

Ages			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	...	...	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5 to 15 years	...	...	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
15 to 25 years	...	...	1	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
25 to 35 years	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 years	...	...	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
45 to 55 years	...	...	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
55 to 65 years	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals			3	3	3	3	2	1	1	

A summary of the Tuberculosis Register showing the number cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year is given below :—

TABLE VI.  
SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
on Register, 1st Jan. 1950 ... ..	26	24	9	7	66
new notifications ... ..	3	3	3	2	11
deaths of cases not previously notified	—	—	—	1	1
cases restored to register ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
transfers from other districts ... ..	3	—	1	—	4
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>82</b>
deaths during year ... ..	2	1	1	2	6
covered ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
removed from district	2	2	—	—	4
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>
number of cases remaining on register, 31st Dec., 1950 ...	28	24	12	8	72

#### 4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

By courtesy of the County Medical Officer the following figure relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age are reproduced :—

TABLE VII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1950	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1950	Total number immunised at end of 1950	Percentage of related population
1950	13	—	13	64.0
1949	80	—	96	
1948	11	—	147	
1947	2	—	175	
1946	4	—	167	
1945	5	10	176	91.7
1944	1	6	157	
1943	2	2	142	
1942	—	1	159	
1941	1	1	101	
1940	—	1	105	
1939	—	1	106	
1938	—	1	102	
1937	—	1	90	
1936	—	—	88	
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>80.3</b>

#### 5. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during 1950, contained in the following table :—

TABLE VIII

Age group	Primary Vaccinations	Re-vaccinations
Under 1 year ...	53	—
1 to 4 ...	40	1
5 to 14 ...	9	5
15 or over ...	13	25
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>31</b>



## SECTION IV

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER SUPPLY

(a) Three bores are operated by the Sheppey Water Company situated at Abbey Works, Minster ; Water Lane, Eastchurch, and Warden, Minster. The Rural District Council has two bores, one in operation at Warden and the other a standby at Leysdown.

The existing sources of supply have been sufficient for the needs of the district. All these waters are chlorinated before distribution.

(b) Of 52 samples taken during the year, 1 from the Warden bore only showed the presence of typical *B. coli*. 10 samples were taken from the Sheppey General Hospital supply, 3 of them showing the presence of typical *B. coli*. Alterations to the mains giving a supplementary supply to the hospital were carried out with satisfactory results.

(c) The number of houses supplied with the source and mode of distribution was as follows :—

#### From Public Supplies

Parish	Tap in house				Standpipe	
Minster ... ..	...	...	...	2260	...	—
Eastchurch ... ..	...	...	...	423	...	25
Warden ... ..	...	...	...	100	...	—
Leysdown ... ..	...	...	...	218	...	—
Urmley ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	—

#### From Private or Communal Wells

	No. of wells		No. of houses	
Leysdown (Shellness) ... ..	...	1	...	20
Urmley ... ..	...	8	...	15

In addition all camping sites are supplied with water mains from public sources and individual chalets draw water either from the mains or from a private communal well in Leysdown.

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) Minster : Informal action has been successful in the abatement of 66 cesspools in Darlington Drive, Sanspareil Avenue, Kin Road, Summerville Avenue, Princes Avenue and Imperial Avenue.

(b) Eastchurch : The scheme for main drainage of Eastchurch was completed and the process of connecting house drains to new sewerage system is proceeding.

(c) The existing sewers in Leysdown Village have now been connected with the sewers serving the Air Ministry Camp and sewage is now dealt with at the Ministry's Disposal Works.

(d) The method of sewage disposal throughout the district summarised below :—

		Number of Houses		
Parish		Main drainage	Cesspool	Pail closets
Minster	...	2,240	47	141
Eastchurch	...	138	222	179
Leysdown	...	—	190	71
Warden	...	—	127	19
Elmley & Harty		—	23	21

## 3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on land adjacent to the Scrapsgate Disposal Works. The tip is regularly treated for rodents and flies.

## 4. SCHOOLS' SANITATION

No complaints have been received.

## 5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public conveniences for both sexes exist at Halfway, Scrapsgate, Minster, Eastchurch and Leysdown and are kept in satisfactory condition.

## 6. INSPECTIONS

Details of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector are shown in Appendix A.

## 7. NUISANCES

Details of nuisances abated are shown in Appendix B. Of the nuisances were abated by informal action.

## DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

- (a) Eighteen rooms were disinfected after infectious disease.
- (b) Eleven houses were treated for infestation by fleas, but cases of bed bugs or other insect pests were reported.

## MOSQUITO CONTROL

During the period April to September, routine mosquito control measures were carried out, including the spraying of hedges, accumulations of stagnant water, cowsheds and stables. Parisol and D.D.T. solution were found to be very effective.

An interesting report to the Health Committee by Mr. Davies, Sanitary Inspector on Mosquito Control is printed as Appendix

## RODENT CONTROL

Number of complaints received ...	...	12
Infestations found on survey ...	...	25
Treated by local authority's operator ...	...	37
Treated by occupier ...	...	Nil
Estimated kill by poison ...	...	1,076

Treatment of the sewers in accordance with the Divisional Engineer's instructions was carried out twice within the year with good results.

## CAMPING SITES

Camping has now become a permanent feature of the area with 30 licensed sites and others awaiting approval.

The 30 sites provide accommodation for 2,873 dwellings at a density of 20 to the acre with a minimum of 15 feet between dwellings. Control by the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Town and Country Planning Act is proving effective.

The following general observations were made by the Sanitary Inspector in a report to the Council at the end of the year: — Throughout the season improvements to various camps have been carried out, including the provision of W.C.'s and the abatement of overcrowding. Generally speaking, the camps have maintained a reasonable standard and no serious Public Health problem has arisen. Overcrowding has occurred during the peak summer months, but without giving rise to any serious nuisance. Some complaints were received from individuals, but upon investigation it was usually found that reasons other than Public Health matters prompted the individual to complain. 307 visits have been made to the camps during the year. The number of camps has increased by nearly 100% and further increases will undoubtedly take place."

## SECTION V

### HOUSING

1. The Sheppey (Pleasant Cottages) Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed by the Ministry of Health and the families concerned were re-housed by the Council and the twelve cottages demolished.

Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below :—

#### (A)—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..   |
|   | (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...   |
| 2 | Number of houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..            |
| 3 | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..                                    |
| 4 | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. |

#### (B)—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

#### (C)—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—<br>Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... .. |
| 2 | Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—<br>Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..              |

3 Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. —

The following table shows the number of houses built during 1950 and since the end of the war :—

			During 1950	Total completed since the end of the war
Council houses :—				
Temporary, completed	...	...	—	32
Permanent, completed	...	...	36	142
„ under construction	...	...	20	
Private enterprise :—				
Permanent, completed	...	...	17	66
„ under construction	...	...	8	

There were still 229 applicants on the Council's waiting list at the end of the year.

#### RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

Of the 3,275 houses in the district, 2,624 have been surveyed. The remaining 651 comprise 240 houses built since 1945 and 411 pre-war houses of modern design, nearly all of which would be classified in Category 1. The figures given in Categories 3, 4 and 5 in the following table can therefore be regarded as complete.

Category	No. of houses
(1) Satisfactory in all respects ... ..	1,257
(2) Minor defects ... ..	476
(3) Requiring repairs, structural alterations or improvements ... ..	677
(4) Appropriate for re-conditioning ... ..	54
(5) Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense ... ..	160

## SECTION VI

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### BYE-LAWS

New Bye-laws for the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air came into force during the



## 2. MILK

(a) There are 13 producers of milk in the district, 8 of which produce undesignated milk, 2 Accredited milk and 3 T.T. milk.

(b) There are eight distributors of milk in the district retailing the following designations :—

Pasteurised milk ...	...	...	...	...
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...
Sterilised milk ...	...	...	...	...
Non-designated raw milk	...	...	...	...

(c) Nine samples of milk were taken during the year. One sample of raw milk was considered unsatisfactory from the cleanliness standard.

## 3. ICE CREAM

(a) No Ice Cream is manufactured in the district, but there are 22 premises registered for its sale and storage.

(b) Sixteen samples submitted for the methylene blue test gave the following results :—

Grade I ...	...	...	...	8
Grade II ...	...	...	...	3
Grade III ...	...	...	...	5
Grade IV ...	...	...	...	Nil

## 4. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

As a result of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector the following items of food were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered.

	lbs.
Sausages ...	28
Gammon ...	12
Meat—tinned ...	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish—tinned ...	$\frac{1}{4}$
Cheese ...	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Eggs ...	35
Vegetables—tinned ...	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cereals ...	$\frac{3}{4}$
Boiled sweets ...	9

Total weight — 72 lbs. 6 ozs.

## 5. FRIED FISH SHOPS

Five fish frying establishments are in operation in the area.

## 6. SHELL FISH

The public have been warned by notices displayed at Minster and Leysdown of the special risks involved in the eating of cockles collected on the foreshore.



## BAKEHOUSES

One bakehouse is registered under the Factories Acts and is in operation in the area.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council for the following details of samples taken in the area during the year.

Blackcurrant Jam	...	...	1	Lemon Curd	...	...	1
Condensed Marmalade	...	...	1	Lemonade Powder	...	...	1
Mustard Powder	...	...	1	Meal Roll (tinned)	...	...	1
Emulsion of Acriflarine	...	...	1	Milk	...	...	28
Lotion	...	...	1	Whisky	...	...	1
Ground White Pepper	...	...	1	White Pepper	...	...	1
Cream	...	...	2	Zinc Ointment	...	...	1

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

**Lotion**—Adulterated. Although made from ingredients in accordance with the label, decomposition had taken place with the formation of a deposit (mainly zinc borate) rendering the article unfit for use. All stocks were immediately withdrawn from sale.

## SECTION VII

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

#### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities (no mechanical power)	21	22	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (mechanical power) ...	12	13	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—
Total ...	33	35	—

## 2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)—				
(a) insufficient ...	1	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	-	-	-	-
Total ...	1	-	-	-

## 3. Outwork.

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers	Action under	
		Secs. 110 and	
Making of wearing apparel ...	2	...	None
Others ...	Nil	...	—

## APPENDIX A

### DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

	Visits and Re-visits
Accumulations ... ..	9
Terminous houses (excluding bugs) ... ..	27
Complaints received ... ..	99
Drainage, visits and re-visits ... ..	86
Drains defective ... ..	154
Drainage re-laid ... ..	70
Factories and workplaces ... ..	35
P.H. Interviews and Appointments ... ..	150
Uninhabitable dwellings ... ..	74
Public conveniences ... ..	550
Rats and mice ... ..	70
Shops (1934) ... ..	6
Keeping of animals ... ..	4
Swimming pools ... ..	2
Water, bacteriological ... ..	64
Water supply visits ... ..	11
Mosquito control ... ..	50
Houses inspected under P.H. Acts ... ..	149
Inspections in clearance areas ... ..	12
Shed-housing interviews and investigations ... ..	61
Infectious disease investigations ... ..	45
Disinfections ... ..	18
Visits to meat shops and vehicles ... ..	6
Butchers and Poulterers ... ..	9
Dried fish shops ... ..	4
Butchers ... ..	6
Greengrocers and fruiterers ... ..	6
Dairies and milk shops ... ..	15
Cream premises ... ..	20
Restaurants ... ..	4
Milk samples ... ..	9
Cream samples ... ..	16
Miscellaneous ... ..	37
Total ... ..	1,878

## APPENDIX B

### NUISANCES ABATED

								Number
Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drainage reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dampness	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Windows and ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fireplaces and stoves	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Washing coppers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Accumulations of refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Verminous rooms	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total							...	2

## APPENDIX C

### MOSQUITO CONTROL

Report by Mr. T. E. DAVIES, Sanitary Inspector,  
to the Health Committee of the  
Sheppey Rural District Council.

In accordance with your instructions the following report in relation to mosquitoes and their control is submitted for your formation. Although the report is mainly concerned with control measures, it has been thought appropriate to deal briefly with the various species of mosquito and their disease potential. It is hoped that this will enable the Council to view the problem in its right perspective, and the relative importance of the problem in relation to Public Health work generally.

That more is heard of the mosquito nuisance nowadays may be attributed to a number of factors. The habits of the people have changed in many ways and the progress in transportation has enabled many more people to leave the large towns and reside either temporarily or permanently in seaside or country districts where mosquitoes are more prevalent. In England, although certain species may carry malaria under certain conditions, it is mainly because of the nuisance caused by their bites that anti-mosquito measures are undertaken. Apart from the unpleasantness of the bites, septic conditions can arise through the scratching of the irritated area.

#### Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes may be divided into two main groups, the Anophelines and the Culicines. The Anophelines are chiefly important because they are capable of conveying malaria infections, and the Culicines, which never carry malaria, are usually only a nuisance because of their biting propensities.

Although there are thirty species of mosquito recorded from the British Isles, the control in the Rural District is mainly directed against three species.

- (1) *Anopheles maculipennis* (atroparvus), capable of transmitting malaria.
- (2) *Aedes detritus*, harmless, but a vicious biter.
- (3) *Culex pipiens*, prolific breeder, but harmless.

It will be observed that one species of malaria carrying mosquito does breed on the Island. This need not necessarily cause harm, as the life cycle of the malaria parasite needs certain set

conditions before it is capable of causing the disease. These, briefly, are as follows :—

- (1) The right species of mosquito.
- (2) A human reservoir of infection.
- (3) Correct climatic conditions for the development of the parasite.

Two of the above conditions are prevalent on the Island. The *Anopheles maculipennis* is capable of transmitting the disease. There is also a potential reservoir of infection inasmuch that many ex-Servicemen were exposed to malaria infection whilst abroad. In many of these cases the malaria parasite is still present in the blood stream and, with the essential vehicle of the mosquito, is capable of transmission to other people. Fortunately, our much maligned weather only very rarely gives the necessary climatic conditions which are suitable for the development of the malaria parasite. When a mosquito bites an infected person, the parasite taken in with the blood has to undergo a phase in its development in the stomach of the mosquito. Before this essential phase of development can take place continued warm weather, combined with a high relative humidity, must occur. Such conditions are rare, and therefore the mosquito is only rarely capable of transmitting the disease. These facts are borne out by statistics, which show that indigenous cases of malaria are very rare. Most cases of notified malaria are, upon investigation, found to be relapse cases, the original infection having been contracted abroad.

## Control

If anti-mosquito measures are to be carried out effectively and economically, it is necessary to take into consideration :

- (1) The species of mosquito responsible for the nuisance and danger to health.
- (2) The habits of the insect concerned.

The mosquito control work is divided into two parts :

- (1) Control of adults.
- (2) Larvicidal control.

## Control of adults

Mosquitoes usually hibernate during the winter months, and choose warm dark places for their hibernation. Cowsheds, stable pigsties, garages, etc., are commonly used for this purpose. In order to reduce the adult mosquito population to a minimum spraying of these places is carried out at the beginning of April. D.D.T. solution is used, and has proved a very effective insecticide. Its residual effect makes it very economical to use. The *Anopheles maculipennis* is essentially a house mosquito, and regular spray



rooms throughout the season is necessary. The *Aedes detritus* normally lives in the vegetation around water, so that the spraying of vegetation during the season is desirable.

### Larvicidal Control

It is impossible to ensure that adult control is 100% effective and therefore breeding does occur from the end of April. Ditches, ponds, watercourses, in fact all accumulations of water, afford breeding places for the mosquito. Different species have their own particular type of breeding place : e.g., some like brackish water, others fresh water ; some prefer shaded areas, others require direct light. To minimise the breeding, all accumulations of water are sprayed with Malariol, which kills the larvæ by blocking the breathing tubes, and by direct poisonous effect. The spraying is carried out once a month.

### Area of Control

At present control is carried out in and around the populated areas. As the *Anopheles maculipennis* is a house mosquito, this ensures that the breeding is kept at a minimum. The flying range of the mosquito is normally 100-600 yards, but, with a favourable wind, they have been known to travel up to 2 miles. This draws attention to the breeding, which occurs out on the marshes. No control work is at present carried out in these regions.

### Conclusion

It will be seen that the most that the control method will do is to minimise the mosquito nuisance. A complete programme of "eradication" is not a practicable financial proposition ; on the other hand "control" methods are an everlasting process. The breeding grounds are the main factor and, wherever possible, the situation should be permanent. This would consist mainly of the drainage or the filling of actual or potential mosquito breeding places.

Householders can assist materially in the control of mosquitoes by ensuring that no breeding takes place on their own premises. In water-tubs, water-tanks, ornamental pools, etc. Where it is possible to empty these containers periodically, they should be treated with a small quantity of a mixture of kerosene oil (2 parts) and crude oil (1 part). The spraying of rooms is essential, especially at the beginning of the season. All dark corners, cupboards, etc., should be sprayed. During spraying all windows and doors should be closed for half an hour. Where necessary, regular

spraying morning and evening should be carried out during the season.

In addition to the normal control work, the following will also be instituted this year :—

1. Greater use of the Malaria Laboratory at Epsom, in order to obtain a complete picture of the species of mosquito breeding on the Island.
2. The keeping of a map, indicating the areas of control and the density of breeding.
3. The use of "oil bombs" for experimental purposes. These are sacks of sawdust soaked in oil, placed in a suitable position. This ensures the continual oiling of the water, and considerably reduces labour costs.